

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the detailed examination evidenced by the final Office Action mailed December 27, 2007 (hereinafter "final Office Action"). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections for at least the reasons presented below.

Independent Claims 1, 16 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,121,968 to Arcuri et al. (hereinafter "Arcuri"). *See* Office Action, page 2. Independent Claim 1 recites:

A method of managing display of menu items on a display of an electronic device, the method comprising:

defining first and second menus comprising respective first and second groups of menu items, wherein the first group of menu items is a subset of the second group of menu items;

displaying the first menu as a first rectangular array having plural rows and plural columns; and

responsive to user activation of a menu expansion function, displaying the second menu as a second rectangular array having a greater number of rows and/or columns than the first rectangular array.

Independent Claims 16 and 31 include analogous recitations.

The Office Action alleges that Arcuri teaches "displaying the first menu as a first rectangular array (fig. 2A; menu 100; *fig. 3 shows a first rectangular array (i.e. menu 100)*) having plural of rows (fig. 24; menu 100; *each menu item (i.e. Print Layout, Web Layout ...) occupies a row*) and plural of columns (fig. 2A; menu 100 *shows a column for icons and column for text descriptions of menu items*)." Office Action, pp. 2 and 3 (emphasis in original). Respectfully, this is incorrect, as ***the icons and text descriptions are not separate menu items***. Rather, in the menu 100 of Arcuri, each text/icon pair is used to identify a ***single*** menu item. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Arcuri does not disclose "displaying the first menu as a first rectangular array having plural rows and plural columns" as recited in independent Claim 1, or related recitations of independent Claims 16 and 31.

Applicants further submit that the "drop-down" structure of the menus shown in Arcuri actually teaches away from use of a menu with plural columns as recited in the claims. Arcuri describes a hierarchical drop-down menu structure in which some menu items (e.g., see "Toolbars" in the menu 100) marked with arrows are designed to invoke additional lower-level drop-down menus that are displayed to the side of the referring higher-level drop-down

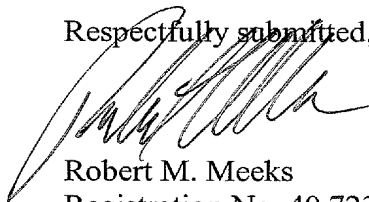
menu. Modifying Arcuri to provide plural columns, *i.e.*, providing a menu in which more than one item is provided in a menu row, in the arrangement of hierarchical drop-down menus shown in Arcuri might risk confusing a user. For example, the presence of multiple menu items may obscure the identity of which menu item in a row in the higher-level drop-down menu is invoking a lower-level drop-down menu. Arcuri, as noted above, does not teach multiple menu items in a row and, accordingly, Arcuri does not teach or suggest any technique by which multiple menu items in row could be accommodated in the hierarchical drop-down menu structure shown in Arcuri. The other cited references also fail to provide such teachings.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Arcuri does not disclose or suggest the recitations of independent Claims 1, 16 and 31. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that independent Claims 1, 16 and 31 are patentable. Applicants submit that dependent Claims 1, 4-10, 17, 19-25, 32, 34-40 and 47-49 are patentable at least by virtue of the patentability of the respective ones of independent Claims 1, 16 and 31 from which they depend. Applicants further submit that several of the dependent claims are separately patentable.

Conclusion

As all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the claims and passing of the application to issue in due course. Applicants urge the Examiner to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (919) 854-1400 to resolve any remaining formal issues.

Respectfully submitted,



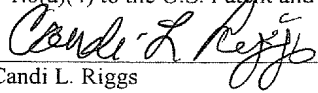
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In re: Karin Spalink et al.
Serial No.: 10/724,941
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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 26, 2008.



Candi L. Riggs